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IMPORT NEWS

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MUSIC

Frozen drum solo video to heat up YouTube

ALLAN BENNER
QMI Agency Niagara

As thousands of people spent Family Day last week exploring the now-demolished ice caves in Crystal Beach, Mike Morrone was creating another spectacle on another part of the frozen shoreline.

The 24-year-old Welland man teamed up with friends Rob Nesbitt, from Blast Hill Studios, and Christian Wiebe from Lexion Films to create a video of himself playing a rock drum solo on the ice of Lake Erie off Long Beach in Wainfleet.

Morrone said he learned from experience that having a good location can attract a lot more interest in the videos he posts to YouTube.

He recorded his first YouTube

video a few years ago, featuring footage filmed while he pounded his drums in his basement. But a similar video filmed last year featuring Morrone playing in a Welland factory with fires burning beside him was far more successful.

"My other video that was done in the basement has 4,000 hits, but the one with the fire has almost 100,000," he said. "People want to see that."

Morrone said he spent six or seven months searching for a location for his next video, hoping to do something that has never been done before, to his knowledge. That's when he learned about the ice caves.

See DRUMMER Page 2



SUBMITTED
PHOTO
Welland
drummer
Mike
Morrone,
playing
his drums
about
100
metres
onto the
ice of
Lake Erie.
He filmed
a video of
his frigid
rock
drum solo
he plans
to post to
YouTube
in a few
weeks.

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LOCAL NEWS

■ REMEMBRANCE

Wainfleet cenotaph coming to fruition; sod turning could be early spring

MELISSA MANGELSEN
Inport Staff

The construction of a cenotaph in Wainfleet has been a dream for more than eight years.

With just over 50% raised towards the cost of a cenotaph, the dreams are becoming a reality.

"Our dream is to hold Remembrance Day 2014 at the new cenotaph," said Doug Wilford, cenotaph committee chair.

If everything goes as planned, the \$75,000 project should see its sod turning by early spring.

"The project has come to fruition because the community has really pulled together to take this on. It's something they wanted to see and were very passionate about," said Wilford.

Donations have come in from current and former residents, the township, and grants from Veteran Affairs, United Way and most recently the Niagara Community Foundation.

On Wednesday the Wainfleet Historical Society and Wainfleet Cenotaph Committee received a cheque from the Niagara Community

Foundation for \$7,500.

"The cenotaph will be an ongoing memorial to the residents of Wainfleet who were killed in the First World War or Second World War. It will also be a focal point of remembrance and education for our school children. This project relates very closely to the mission of the historical society in that it recognizes and continues to preserve our history and is a tribute to those who paid the ultimate price," said Wilford.

Kelly Robson, director of the Niagara Community Foundation, said when the committee reviewed the request from the historical society, it was impressed with the thoroughness of its research.

"We were also pleased to see that they were reaching out to other potential funding sources for this project," said Robson.

Fundraising will continue for the cenotaph with a progressive euchre night in March at the firehall in Wainfleet. There will also be a trivia night April 1 in Fonthill and a walk-a-thon on May 10.

melissa.mangelsen@sunmedia.ca



MELISSA MANGELSEN/INPORT STAFF

From left, Jake Lobbezoo, Dorothy Jackson, cenotaph board chairs, Janet Hodgkins, president of Wainfleet Historical Society, Doug Wilford, chair of the cenotaph committee, Kelly Robson, director at Niagara Community Foundation, Ted Hessel, alderman/cenotaph committee.

■ DRUMMER

Drummer takes to the ice to shoot epic solo video

From Page 1

"I thought that would be crazy," he said.

The caves, however, were far too crowded with visitors.

So Morrone found a location on the ice about 100 metres off the shore of Long Beach.

Morrone said they were

out on the ice for about five hours, including the time it took to set up and film the video. He said conditions were ideal for the video, "and everything else just kind of flowed together."

"We were all on our game."

He said they wanted to produce a video that gave

viewers a feeling of isolation.

"My drums were black, and I was wearing black, and I was isolated in a tundra of white. I thought that was cool," said Morrone, who learned to play drums about 15 years ago.

Despite the -6°C temperature, he said he quickly

warmed up once he started pounding the drums.

"The blood was flowing," he said.

Despite the isolated location, the sight of a guy playing his drums on the frozen lake attracted some attention from neighbours and from people ice fishing on

the lake.

"A few families came out to see us near the end, and the fishermen were watching too," Morrone said, adding they didn't seem concerned that his drum solo might scare away the fish.

The video will be posted on Morrone's YouTube chan-

nel "MikeM drummer" after a few weeks of production, along with his previous videos.

Morrone said he plays drums as a hobby while pursuing a career in law enforcement.

allen.benner@sunmedia.ca

If you have a story idea or see news happening, we want to hear from you —
inport.news@sunmedia.ca or 905-732-2414.

LOCAL NEWS

■ ART: Artists team up for exhibit

Two Men and a Brush at Port gallery

MELISSA MANGELSEN
Import Staff

George Sanders and Bob Twidle were brought together by art, and now they are coming together for their first joint exhibit, *Two Men and a Brush*, at the Arts Place Gallery in Port Colborne.

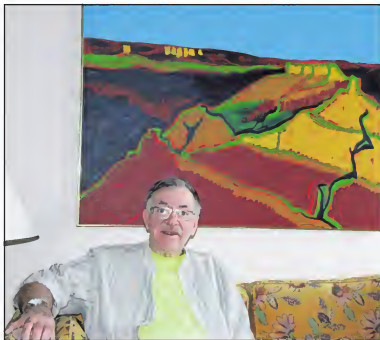
"My work reflects many changes over many years, but it is always based on the same artistic values," said Sanders, who draws his inspiration from life.

"My early training was abstract, but as I have travelled through time and many places, I have worked with landscape and figurative paintings done on site or from sketches, never from photographs. I would describe my work as minimal realism," said Sanders.

Twidle, who is a resident of Fort Erie, discovered his passion for art in 1983. He had become ill and was forced to give up his profession as a family physician.

Like Sanders, his inspiration comes from what he sees "passing through life," whether it be Lake Erie, his garden, or a landscape he encounters while traveling.

Both artists are longtime members of the Arts



MELISSA MANGELSEN/IMPORT STAFF

Port Colborne artist George Sanders will be part of the *Two Men and a Brush* exhibition that will be on at the Arts Place Gallery on King St. until April 6. He will be partnered up with Fort Erie artist Bob Twidle. Inset: One of Twidle's paintings hangs at the Arts Place Gallery on King St. in Port Colborne.

Place Gallery and have had their own exhibitions in the past.

"We're very excited to get them together for *Two Men and a Brush*. Both of them are very involved at the art gallery, and it's great to get them both to show their work," said gallery co-ordinator Joyce Honsberger.

Sanders said he has been an artist since he was four years old, focusing on can-

vas. Twidle grew over the years as an artist.

"We've known each other for 15 years and are looking forward to get together for this gallery," said Sanders. *Two Men and a Brush* will run until April 6 at the Arts Place Gallery on King St.

melissa.mangelsten@sunmedia.ca

One of Bob Twidle's paintings hangs at the Arts Place Gallery on King St. in Port Colborne. Twidle will team up with Port Colborne artist George Sanders for *Two Men and a Brush*, which will run until April 6.

IN
BRIEF

Winter bites into roads budget

A harsh winter is taking a toll on Niagara Region's road maintenance budget.

In a report to the Region's public works committee Tuesday, Ralph Scholz, associate director of transportation services, said his department expects to spend approximately \$8 million each fiscal year to clear Region roads of snow and ice from roads. But a harsher winter than usual is expected to increase that cost by \$800,000 to \$960,000.

The extra cost, Scholz said, is due to additional fuel, winter maintenance materials like salt, sand and beet juice, and overtime. Scholz said in his report that winter costs are calculated on a fiscal year, meaning the 2013-14 winter season will be split with the 2014-15 season.

He said one month into the 2014 fiscal year, the department has used about double the projected winter maintenance materials compared to the same period last year. He said the department expects overtime and fuel costs to be 50% higher in January and February.

Gold star for recyclers

Niagara Region's waste management department handed out gold stars to excellent blue and grey box recyclers.

In a report to the Region's public works committee, waste management staff said in 2013 it conducted curbside inspections of blue and grey recycling boxes as part of its Blue Box Ins and Outs program.

The campaign was conducted in three rounds. In the first round, waste management interns

inspected 997 randomly selected homes throughout Niagara's 12 municipalities. At each property where recycling bins were at the curbside, it was noted if the recyclables were properly sorted and prepared for pickup. In the second round three weeks later, interns returned to the selected homes, talked to residents and left tip sheets explaining the ins and outs of preparing a recycling box.

In the third round, two weeks later, the interns returned to those households and awarded gold star-decaled recycling boxes to residents deemed to have demonstrated a high standard of recycling.

The report said over the two cycles, more than 71% of households visited put out blue boxes and 69% set out grey boxes — an improvement over the 69% and 64% respectively set out in 2010 and 2011 audits.

Free maps

It looks like the Region is giving up on trying to break even on the sale of the Niagara Region Bicycle Map.

In a staff report to the public works committee Tuesday, staff recommended the maps be given away to residents, tourists and potential visitors.

The initial plan was to charge for the maps and recoup the cost of future printings. But a review of past sales shows the amount collected annually falls far short of the amount budgeted for reprinting. In 2014 (\$8,000), in 2011, revenue from map sales was approximately \$2,400; in 2012, it was about \$3,000.

Staff noted distribution of the maps was inconsistent, with some being sold and others given away. Staff said a lack of internal controls regarding the distribution of the maps leaves the Region open to risks, including fraud and theft, so it recommended the maps be given away free.

Regional council is expected to vote on the matter at its next meeting.



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ourview

Snow: it's an asset

It's been the kind of winter that some people call old-fashioned, meaning that it's been the kind of winter that we used to experience many years ago. Some say we haven't seen this much snow since 1978, while others point to 1993 as the last time temperatures were as low as they were earlier this month and in January.

Whatever the case, we should be grateful. It's going to be quite messy this week when the snow begins to melt, but our lakes, rivers and streams will be slowly replenished, and the possibility of a drought for later this year will be diminished.

Not so in California, where the snow has only started to fall on the Sierras, and where there has been precious little rain during the customary rainy season. California is in the midst of a severe drought; its reservoirs have been emptied, and the depth of its rivers, lakes and streams reduced.

There has been rationing for California's 38 million residents, but what's interesting is that most of that state's water resources are directed to agriculture. California's Central Valley produces 45 billion worth of agricultural goods for the United States (part of that abundance is sold in Ontario), but at a tremendous cost; California's Water Resources Department says 80% of the state's water is directed to farmlands.

It should be no surprise if California's agricultural activities experience some sort of collapse this year because of a lack of dependable water. Last summer, almond farmers started to remove their trees in anticipation of chronic water shortages.

This ought to be a reminder that our part of the world is mostly blessed in resources such as water, and a reminder that Southern Ontario is well-situated within the agricultural world. The quality of land is among the best in Canada, and the Great Lakes help moderate temperatures. We can grow almost anything outside of tropical crops, and as the long-term sustainability of regions such as California's Central Valley comes into question, there will be (or should be) greater value placed on our agricultural activity.

Drought remains a problem for much of the world, providing enormous challenges for some nations to feed themselves. And so it's an historic/oddy that so much agricultural emphasis has been placed on California's Central Valley, especially with respect to water shortages is not unusual. Researchers have determined through the examination of tree rings, sediment and other natural evidence, that California has in the past been subjected to several mega-droughts—the largest, over 1,000 years ago, is thought to have lasted for 160 years.

And so, while our part of Canada has experienced extraordinary amounts of snow this year, that snow should be viewed as an asset. We might at times take our water supply for granted; others don't.

Peter Epp

Enough political blather — where's the beef?

In many ways, we live in an era of banality. We often hear the mandate or get excited about the absolutely ordinary or uninteresting.

In no realm of our public life is more evident than our politics. From the local town council to the House of Commons, what we see on display is a tepid mixture of self-interest and emotional jingoism. The attempt is not so much to convince us of good ideas or confront uncomfortable realities, but rather to sell us plumb to make us feel better before we go to cast a ballot.

We heard this style of empty rhetoric more recently from the mouth of federal Liberal Leader Justin Trudeau. While most of the country was fixated on Olympic hockey (by the way, America — you lose!), the Liberals were holding a policy conference.

Trudeau's keynote address was billed as A Very Big Deal — his most important speech to date.

“I don’t think ‘important’ means what the Liberals think it means.”

It was much ado about nothing. Trudeau used the tired trick of offering up a fictional everyman. In this case a fictional, non-existent “Nan” was his attempt to connect with the audience. Using the life story of an actual person is just too much trouble, you see. Reporters might ask questions.

Readers' views

FOCUS ON URGENT CARE CENTRE

Everyone has a right to their own opinion, but nothing would get done in this country if government was forced to concur with everyone's opinion. Someone often has to make tough decisions. Under our Constitution let us be reminded that municipal government has jurisdiction over the administration of health care. That distinction belongs to the provinces. Most people waste time worrying about things that will never happen but then while losing our local hospital is being created a new “Nan” is being hospital on Montrose Rd. Does not mean we are being denied efficient health care. We need to step out of the box on this issue. It is disappointing, but with the loss of our industrial base due to off-shore of industry, it only stands to reason that the province has less tax revenue and the demands of an aging population narrows down the decision process to one of economies. I have been convinced for some time now that Niagara Health System is way ahead of the curve on this issue and its decision to build the Montrose Rd. site was not a random decision. I do not believe it was a political one. However, I also believe Frank Campano should change his strategy and attempt to convince the NHS that, in the least, Welland should be the location for one of the proposed urgent care centres. That would put

Trudeau submitted to fix what ails Canada and, of course, put us back to work. Because he can make change happen. Because “negativity cannot be this country’s lifeline.”

Great, except he didn't offer up much in the way of actual policy details. Instead, he tried to sell us a Morning Inspirational Fiction. I suppose this is the opposite of Prime Minister Stephen Harper who mostly plays the part of Frontiersman and Chief of the Under.

Neither approach will motivate Canadians to tackle hard problems, nor provide a path to guide us through a sea of troubles.

So what would I want to hear from our politicians, if not more about lives of people who don't exist? Well for starters, how about an actual plan to improve the state of science education?

I don't get talked about by those promising to fix our economy, but the fact is everything we do, everything we make, everything we use, is a product of science and technology. We have a dire need for more researchers, more mechanical engineers, more highly educated, highly trained big-brain types.

If we want to have new avenues of manufacturing, new models of cheaper energy or energy delivery or new industries that put people to work, we need to explore, invent and build a tomorrow, not wait for it to happen.

rest of a land of anxiety over this issue.

JAMES MACINNIS
WELLAND

DON'T TEST TESTING

The suggestion to eliminate provincewide tests to complete the odds with any desire to ensure and improve the quality of education in Ontario EQAO tests provides a realistic picture of how well students in Ontario are developing reading, writing and math skills and they do so for a very reasonable \$17 a student. The quality, validity and value-for-money of provincewide tests have been proven time and again through various independent reviews. All students need to develop strong literacy and numeracy skills and the provincial tests remove all subjectivity from evaluating whether or not they have. EQAO tests are the only common assessment for all students in the province, are linked specifically to the Ontario curriculum and measure all students' achievement in relation to the same standard.

The results of EQAO tests provide detailed data about student strengths and weaknesses that would be impossible to obtain without the provincial testing program. In her recent letter, Ms. Hassan acknowledges that school boards are accountable for the quality of student performance and the schools should be accountable to taxpayers, but then suggests eliminating the only

And we are not just talking about university-level education here. It has to start at grade school.

Consider a recent survey in the United States that showed one quarter of Americans think the sun revolves around Earth. I don't know of any recent equivalent survey in Canada, but in the past, similar studies about scientific ignorance — such as the large volume of people who believe dinosaurs and humans coexisted — have shown the Canadian experience is not that far removed from the folks south of the 49th parallel. Which is why we should pay attention to the U.S. survey.

It's not overstating the point if you say you don't know the basics of the solar system, you're not likely to get a well-paying job, nor be the entrepreneur who is going to create something new.

All things being equal, a substandard education means low wages, poor health, lower life expectancy and a host of other problems. If the general citizenry is poorly educated, the country just gets out-competed by other nations. It's that simple.

Science education is silver bullet. There is no silver bullet for the economy, and no policy that can fix everything in a few terms in office. But it would be an intelligent long-term strategy to build a better tomorrow.

We just need our political leaders to start embracing reality, and to put that ahead of their short-term agendas and ambitions.

source of impartial, publicly available and provincially-comparable evidence, which 98% of elementary school principals use to guide school improvement planning. Without the provincial testing program, Ontario would lose so much valuable information.

BRUCE RODRIGUES, CEO, EQAO
TORONTO

PAN AM GAMES A FINANCIAL SCANDAL

The Pan Am Games have fallen to corruption like everything else in the province. The games are touching. It is mind-blowing that Ian Troop, ex-CEO of the Pan Am Games, received a \$500,000 golden handshake for corrupting an outstanding financial executive into him. In the short period of time he was in charge he ran a budget shortfall of many hundreds of millions of dollars. No accountability, no charges, just a nice fat paycheck.

The Conservatives are no angels, but they pale in comparison with the corrupt mindset of the Ontario Liberals, who are knowingly steering Ontario towards bankruptcy.

People supporting this government should think long and hard about their kids and grandchildren they really love them.

This government's continuing over-spending defies all common sense with the younger generation paying the bill.

ROB JANSSEN
LINCOLN

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■ NIAGARA COLLEGE

Arabian Knights

MARYANNE FIRTH
QMI Agency Niagara

Niagara College is heading east — way to the Middle East.

And it's bringing back millions of dollars to invest in the region.

The college learned last week it won a bid to operate a hospitality, tourism, culinary and business campus in Taif, Saudi Arabia, beating out 20 other institutions from across the globe.

The news came after a worldwide tender was issued last fall by the Colleges of Excellence of Saudi Arabia.

Top schools were sought to train students in a variety of sectors at 26 vocational and technical training colleges built and owned by the Saudi government.

"It's rewarding to know we beat out colleges in Australia, the U.K. and the U.S.," said Sean Kennedy, Niagara College's vice-president of student and external relations.

"Our programs are recognized as top class. We were pleased to come out on top."

The bid was broken into two pieces — 30% based on price to operate programming and 70% based on each school's ability to provide quality training.

"Our bid was at the very top of the technical scores," Kennedy said, noting that played a large part in Niagara being awarded a five-year contract.

Kennedy was not able to divulge the

college's financial bid, but said the "net benefit back to Niagara College, to be reinvested in programs, services and facilities, will be in the millions of dollars."

Work is underway to finalize negotiations and necessary details to see the partnership move forward, he said. The Taif campus is under construction and scheduled for completion in the coming months.

If all goes as planned, programming will begin in September with 150 to 200 students who will undergo English language training and academic skills acquisition.

Successful students will then continue into business, hospitality and tourism diploma programs in September 2015.

By the end of the five-year run, Kennedy is anticipating the campus will grow to 1,000 students with about 100 staff and faculty members. Both Canadians, including Niagarans, and Saudi Arabians will be hired to staff the campus.

Operating Taif's hospitality and tourism campus seemed like a "perfect fit," as many of the programs offered will mirror those available at the college's Niagaras-on-the-Lake campus, Kennedy said.

The Taif campus will have a restaurant on site, as well as a teaching hotel to provide hands-on learning experiences and work opportunities for students.

The partnership, Kennedy said, "gives us a chance to link globally with major employers," including some of the world's top hotel chains.

It's also an opportunity to "diversify



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Niagara College has won a bid to operate a campus in Taif, Saudi Arabia. The Middle East campus for the school whose mascot is the Knights is pictured above.

revenue streams here," he said, as the college is always looking for additional ways to fund the high-quality programming offered locally.

Kennedy explained there's "a lot of work to be done" before the Taif campus can be ready to go into the fall, making this "an exciting

and daunting time."

This is not Niagara College's first time working in the Middle East nation.

The school has worked in partnership with the King Faisal Specialist Hospital and Research Centre since 2006 delivering office administration training in the cit-

ies of Riyadh and Jeddah.

Niagara College has a "global reputation of excellence," Kennedy said.

"We're centred in Niagara, but globally linked."

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LOCALNEWS

BIZ BUZZ

Port Colborne spa buying into bitcoin

By it bit, Alicia Kniffen is expanding her business.

The founder of Hands on Health, a registered massage therapy clinic and esthetics spa on West St. in Port Colborne, is always looking for new ways to increase convenience and decrease costs — both for her clients and for her business.

Already offering traditional and online methods of payment, Kniffen decided to up the ante in December and added bitcoin to her list of payment options.

"The innovative digital currency was launched in 2009 but only recently began making waves in conventional retail settings."

"It's still really new," Kniffen said of bitcoin, which when mentioned still leaves some people perplexed.

She tries her best to explain its use to clients, describing it as a payment method similar to PayPal.

"It's a direct digital transaction. There's no middle man, no exchanging of personal information," she said, noting the currency uses a digital wallet to transfer funds.

Businesses must always keep a close eye on overhead costs and look for efficiencies, Kniffen said.

"And one of the big pros with bitcoin is there are no fees associated with transactions. It's a way to reduce (client) costs and mine."

Kniffen called bitcoin secure and said it offers more protection against identity theft.

The relatively new currency's value is in constant fluctuation. As of Tuesday afternoon, one divisible bitcoin was valued at US\$626.

"It's getting more exposure," she said.

"People want to know what it is and how it works."

It was husband Tracey McRae who introduced the registered

massage therapist to the concept. Working in the U.S., McRae sees the currency being advertised in major tourist areas and feels it's a trend that will continue to grow, Kniffen said.

"It's great to stay with the times."

Kniffen believes she's one of the first Niagara businesses to offer bitcoin payment, though she's only had one client use the service since its introduction.

She's hopeful that will change. As a business owner, Kniffen feels it's important to offer both traditional and innovative payment options to attract different types of clients — both the tech-savvy and otherwise.

Hands on Health offers different types of massage therapy, as well as rehabilitative services and spa treatments.

For more information, visit www.handsonehealthportcolborne.com.

A series of new stores have

opened their doors at Seaway Mall. A ribbon-cutting ceremony was recently held to celebrate the new tenants that have moved into the Niagara St. shopping centre, including Infinity Family Jewellers, Sleep & Dream carpets and mattresses,

Cellairis wireless accessories, and The Salvation Army.

The Tribune's Biz Buzz column appears every Wednesday. If you have a business tip, send it to marianne.firth@sunmedia.ca or call 905-732-2414 ext. 287.



MARIANNE FIRTH/IMPORT NEWS STAFF

Alicia Kniffen, owner of Hands on Health, is now offering bitcoin payment at the registered massage therapy clinic and esthetics spa in Port Colborne.

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LOCAL NEWS

■ **LAW & ORDER:** Service is good, crime stats are down but the price keeps going up

Ontario municipalities handcuffed by policing costs

BILL SAWCHUK
QMI Agency Niagara

At a time when Niagara's cash-strapped cities and towns are struggling to bring in budgets with modest increases, the ever-rising cost of policing in Niagara is coming under increasing scrutiny — as it is across the province.

"It costs almost \$1 million more for policing than it does to run the town," David Eke, Niagara-on-the-Lake's lord mayor, said. "In 2012, the last year we have audited numbers, the Niagara-on-the-Lake ratepayers sent \$8.3 million to the region for policing services. It cost Niagara-on-the-Lake \$7.4 million to run the entire municipality, with 100 full-time staff and another 40 in the summer."

"It has nothing to do with the quality of the policing that we are getting, but there has to be a recognition of the ability to pay."

A recent 8.5% pay increase for OPP officers — the result of a provincial government commitment to make them the highest paid officers in Ontario — is making some politicians in Niagara nervous.

"The Ontario government gave the OPP a big raise," Jim Collard, a Niagara-on-the-Lake councillor, said. "That's going to come back to every police force across the province."

"If the contract goes to arbitration, the

arbitrator doesn't consider the local ability to pay, the economy, unemployment rates," he said, explaining the arbitrator would look at the last amount given in the province.

"You do the same job. You get that too. That issue is squarely in the lap of the provincial government because they have the ability to regulate the way arbitration is done. The last premier said we are not going to touch that, but if they don't fix it, they are not helping anybody."

In Niagara-on-the-Lake, there is also concern about the way policing costs are distributed within Niagara. Politicians in the town believe they are paying too much.

"When you take a look at the cost per household, Niagara-on-the-Lake is \$1,466," Eke said. "The next highest is Grimsby at \$805 and then it goes down from there."

Niagara-on-the-Lake's share of the overall police budget was 7% yet our population is only 3.6%. We only generated calls to police of 1.8%.

"Our position is we don't mind paying our fair share, with heavy emphasis on the fair part."

The NRP has 703 officers and 314 civilians on its 2014 roster, compared to 704 officers and 319 civilians in 2013. There were 344 officers on the province's latest sunshine list of public employees who

make over \$100,000 a year.

The police service in Niagara has tried to control costs through a program review and by not filling non-essential civilian job vacancies. The service has made headway reining in overtime costs, and its new contract allows it to move officers between districts to cover absences.

"I think the police services board is trying to look for ways to keep their costs streamlined," Doug Joyner, the mayor of West Lincoln, said. "I see a real effort to come within guidance this year of the budget committee."

"The Niagara Regional Police do a good job for us. It is a large budget and it is difficult at times, and I like to see them working with us to give the best possible service to our taxpayers."

In Essex, located in southwestern Ontario near Windsor, the five county municipalities disbanded

their police forces and brought in the OPP in an effort to cut costs. Now, they may be regretting the decision. In Tecumseh, one of the municipalities, taxes alone are going up 2.2% just to cover the OPP contract. The province tells the OPP serviced community what the police budget will be and how staffing will change. They have very little say in policing matters. It's become so bad some small-town mayors have hinted at bankruptcy.

Niagara flirted briefly with the idea of bringing in the OPP about 10 years ago. In 2006, after continued frustration with constant increases in the police budget, a report was prepared for the financial services committee but that was as far as it went.

"The Niagara median cost for policing is \$655 per household," Collard said. "That's almost double the OPP median cost. Why is

that? The Niagara Region needs to take a look at policing. If the median is \$655, there are six communities paying more than that."

"It's not what they do and how they do it. They do a great job. The question is how much more will taxes have to go up in order to pay these increasing prices. How many people from the Niagara Regional Police force were on the sunshine list this year?"

"Here's the bottom line. If we can't afford to pay these guys, we will have to lay off some of them or not buy their equipment. We cannot continually put this back on the tax bill. We have taxpayers we have to pay attention to. If we are constantly raising their taxes, we are transferring their wealth to someone else."

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LOCAL NEWS

SHOPPING

Outlet mall to hold career expo

BILL SAWCHUK
QMI Agency Niagara

What is billed as Canada's largest open-air outlet shopping centre, the Outlet Collection at Niagara, will hold a career expo March 1 for job seekers as it gets ready to open its doors May 15.

The 520,000-square-foot shopping centre in Niagara-on-the-Lake will feature marquee retailers including Tommy Hilf, J. Crew Factory, Nike Factory Store, Coach Outlet, Pandora, White House Black Market, Fossil,

Bench, Lacoste, North Face and Marshalls, the development company Ivanhoe Cambridge said.

"We are thrilled to be bringing such an exceptional shopping experience to this region," said Bri-Ann Stuart, the centre's general manager. "We're sure that shoppers will be excited about the incredible selection and value the centre will bring. This will be a destination shopping area for locals and tourists alike."

The career expo, which will help find staff for the new retail

outlets including supervisory, customer service, cashier and stocking positions, will be held at Niagara College's Niagara-on-the-Lake campus from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. About 60 tenants will be there to accept applications and conduct interviews.

"This career exhibition is a very positive event for Niagara," said Niagara-on-the-Lake Mayor Dave Eke.

"The Outlet Collection will provide up to 1,500 full-time and part-time jobs, which is a huge

boost for the entire region. I look forward to stopping by that day to personally meet some of the new employers and prospective employees."

As well as bringing shoppers from surrounding areas to Niagara-on-the-Lake, the facility is expected to infuse the local economy with about \$5 million in annual tax revenue and 1,500 full and part-time jobs, the development company said.



JULIE JOCSAK/QMI AGENCY NIAGARA

A ceremony marked the ground breaking for the massive new outlet mall that is under construction at the corner of Taylor Rd. and Glendale Ave. in Niagara-on-the-Lake May 7.

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LOCAL NEWS

■ **JERICHO HOUSE:** Christine Rougoor addressed southwestern Ontario students at leadership forum

'It's really about pushing for the respect of everyone'

MELISSA MANGELSEN
Inport Staff

Christine Rougoor, paralyzed from the chest down, says barriers aren't just about the physical challenges of being disabled.

"It's also about how people perceive people who are in wheelchairs or have various challenges," she says.

Jericho House in Wainfleet has a philosophy of leadership based on the belief that young people are already leaders. Its efforts are geared towards helping enhance the leadership that already exists and is being exercised by young people.

Its fourth annual leadership symposium last week featured Rougoor as keynote speaker.

She spoke about youth leadership and how to provide a more inclusive environment and opportunity for people with differences.

"It's a chance for people to discover their own biases and see what it's like to be in someone else's shoes," says Rougoor, who became paralyzed as a result of a 2008 motorcade accident.

She has become a motivational speaker for others with differences, and shares her own experiences with inclusion and how difficult it is to be mobility challenged.

She is a 2011 Brock University graduate and the recipient of the 2011 Board of

Trustees Spirit of Brock medallion. She is continuing her studies in the master of education program, focusing her research on teachers with mobility issues within the classroom, which is a close and passionate topic for her.

"It was hard to find teachers with challenges, but once I did we all seemed to run into the same barriers," says Rougoor. The Jericho House symposium saw Grades 10 to 12 students from across southwestern Ontario attend.

"It's really about pushing for the respect for everyone and understanding diversity," Rougoor says of her presentation.

One of the things she found she lost after her accident was the feeling of being independent.

"As a person with a disability I've learned how to ask for help when I need it. A lot of times people will just jump in there to help you with things they think you can't do," she says. "It's important to ask before assuming that someone can't do something. When you just start pushing someone in a wheelchair it isn't just starting to them that they're suddenly moving, but it also strips away their independence."

She was the first time Rougoor has been invited to speak at the symposium and said it was something she embraced.

"This is what I push for in life. I'm a

strong advocate for people with disabilities. I want to bring a broader awareness of the inclusion that is happening everywhere. I want to inspire these people so they can go out and be a good citizen of the community."

Sister Jacquie Keefe, co-director of Jericho House, says Rougoor was chosen to speak because she is a great role model.

"This young woman is living what we believe in here at Jericho House. She's very positive, ambitious, smart and empowering."

Rougoor spoke about her experiences of overcoming a traumatic change that affected all aspects of her life at home, school and within the community.

She also spoke on her latest endeavours, travels and triumphs, which includes a wheelchair bungee jump in Whistler, B.C., which resulted in a YouTube video of the jump going viral.

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SUPPLIED PHOTO

Christine Rougoor was the keynote speaker at last week's fourth annual leadership symposium at Jericho House in Wainfleet.

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■ FIREFIGHTER APPRECIATION

Artist says thank you through art

MELISSA MANGELSEN
Import News Staff

When someone saves your life and your house from burning down, how do you thank them?

For Welland artist Catherine Gouthro, there was only one way she knew how — through art.

After a fire leveled her neighbours' two-storey garage and melted the siding on her own home, the vision of what the firefighters did that night to save her home from going down too wouldn't Gouthro's her mind.

In the midst of the Nov. 17 early morning fire, her neighbour Joen Simpson managed to take a photograph of a firefighter behind a haze of smoke.

"It was such an amazing photo that I decided to paint it onto a table out of appreciation to the fire department," said Gouthro.

The finished table is available in a fire-draw to full-time or volunteer Niagara firefighters.

Seeing what the firefighters did for her that night lit close to home, because she has a 22-year-old son, Jeffrey, who is a firefighter.

"As a mom of a firefighter, I felt a bond with them when they came out that night. We weren't able to go back into our home until after 3 a.m., and they stayed there the entire time. They kept checking the attic to make sure everything was OK before they left," said Gouthro.

Her eldest son, Jesse, who is 23 puts his life on the line to help others as well. He is in the Canadian Armed Forces, stationed in Petawawa.

Though her home didn't catch fire, the scene from her

kitchen window was movie-like. The fence that separated her property from her neighbours' was acting like a match.

"We went out there and soaked it down because we saw how it was spreading the fire. The fire department said that probably saved our house," she said.

"It was so frightening, eerie and spooky to see your house melting before your own eyes."

Gouthro does her artwork on used furniture, giving it new life.

"Our dumps are burning garbage on a daily basis, polluting our planet. I want to see us stop being a throwaway society and recycle these things," she said.

Her artistic ability came as a slow show of dedication and perseverance.

Over the years, she has developed her own style as a free-hand artist.

"I don't do any sketches before I paint. I just paint free-style, all by hand."

The table will be on display at Above and Beyond Cupcakes and Cafe at 583 King St for the next two weeks.

"They were just a great group of people who I felt safe with. I was well looked after and I wanted to say thank you with what I do best," she said.

Full-time or volunteer Niagara firefighters who want to enter the draw should send their name, phone number and area they work from to Gouthro at catherine.gouthro@hotmail.com or visit her Facebook page at www.facebook.com/ArtworkonFurniturebyCatherineGouthro

melissa.mangelsen@sunmedia.ca



MELISSA MANGELSEN
IMPORT STAFF

After a fire nearly destroyed her home, Catherine Gouthro wanted to say thank you to the firefighters who saved her life and house. She did that the best way she knew how — through her artwork. The table will be given away through a free draw open to Niagara firefighters on March 29.

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LOCAL NEWS

■ **HIGH SCHOOL PROJECT:** Colin Chilvers worked on Superman, Michael Jackson video among others

Oscar winner works with Niagara students

SARAH FERGUSON
QMI Agency Niagara

Academy Award-winning special effects artist Colin Chilvers visited Fort Erie Secondary School on Friday to work with a group of more than 25 media students.

He also plans to produce a short promotional video with the students.

"There's no reason why we couldn't work together," he said.

Chilvers is a member of the Niagara Woodcarvers Associa-

tion and plans to work with the students to produce a promotional video for the association's upcoming show in March.

Chilvers said the Niagara Woodcarvers 35th annual show and competition will be held March 29 and 30 at Heartland Forest, at 8215 Kalar Rd. in Niagara Falls.

Chilvers plans to meet the students over the next few weeks to plan the short video.

"I have the equipment and you guys have some equipment. I

think we could make something great to promote the event and the school, too," he added.

Chilvers is no stranger to working in the movie and television business. The highlight of his career came in 1980 when he won an Oscar for best visual effects on the film Superman. Chilvers was responsible for special effects in the Superman trilogy's other two films.

He has also worked on a number of popular films as special effects co-ordinator, including

the Rocky Horror Picture Show, X-Men and Bride of Chucky.

He also directs and has overseen a number of television commercials and music videos.

Michael Jackson fans will recognize Chilvers' work as he directed Jackson's music video for Smooth Criminal.

The Crystal Beach resident grew up in England in a working-class family. He said he never imagined he would one day have a successful career in the film industry.

"When I was 11 or 12, I was taken to the Saturday morning matinee and I was fascinated by it," he said.

"I went to art school and went on to study special effects. The first movie that I worked on was 2001: A Space Odyssey," he added.

The young special effects artist "was sacked" a few weeks into the project, he said, because the director wanted to employ his nephew instead of Chilvers.

He came to Niagara with a film crew to shoot one of the Superman trilogy's movies.

"We were shooting Superman 2 and one of the scenes was a boy falling over the falls in Niagara Falls," Chilvers said.

"I married a young lady from the area and I've been here ever since."

He continues to work in the film industry but focuses on local projects. He has directed a number of works, including a music video for band the Screamin' Black Cadillac.

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SARAH FERGUSON/QMI AGENCY

Colin Chilvers visited Fort Erie Secondary School Friday to talk to students about his work in the film industry and to kickstart a project with the students.



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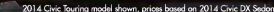
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■ PHILANTHROPY

College students pump up a Caribbean community

DON FRASER

QMI Agency Niagara

For these 15 students, it's a Reading Week voyage to the Caribbean with an altruistic twist.

A routine International Field

Studies trip to the Dominican Republic has become a mission with foot-powered irrigation pumps as its centerpiece.

Niagara College students from different programs will be led by environment and horticulture professor Bill McDonald

and his wife Linda, a lab technologist.

While there this week, they'll experience life in Los Cacaos, where the college works with a fair-trade coffee co-op.

MacDonald learned how treadle pumps are used in developing countries from the book *Out of Poverty*, by Paul Polak.

The professor saw a natural fit with an emerging vegetable greenhouse industry in Los

Cacaos.

The pumps, activated like an elliptical machine, would irrigate the greenhouses and not be dependent on unreliable electrical supply.

"We are not going down there

to change the world," said MacDonald. "This is a small project, it helps with community development and is for students to see and experience another culture."

See COLLEGE on Page 20



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VITAMINS SUPPLEMENTS AND HERBALS

Contrary to popular belief there really is no magic pill. Many people come in search of the right vitamin, or supplement, hoping it will help them sleep better, feel better, or perform better. Unfortunately there really aren't any magic supplements that can cure all that ails you. Even prescription medications are limited. They can lower your blood pressure or your cholesterol but no pill is going to fix everything.

People want to take herbals because they feel a natural product is "safer" for them. This is not necessarily true. Whether you are taking a prescription medication or a natural product you are putting a chemical in your body which can alter your body's chemistry. As such you are subject to the effects of the medication either good or bad.

Pharmacists are not against herbal products. Many of them have evidence to show they can provide some benefit. However, not all herbs and natural products have undergone standardized testing to ensure that they only contain what's on the label. It has even been shown that some products contain very little of the ingredient they are being sold for. As a consumer it is important you educate yourself regarding which manufacturers have their products tested, and which companies conduct clinical trials to ensure their products are safe and effective. Some companies now have an NPN number on their products. This number serves as notice that their products have been tested and contain what is claimed on the label.

As far as supplements are concerned the best thing to do is follow the Canada Food Guide. A well balanced diet can provide you with all of the vitamins and nutrition you require. The few supplements that may be worthwhile to purchase are Calcium and Vitamin D. Even with a well balanced diet most people do not get enough of these. Recent studies show that almost everyone has a vitamin D deficiency. New evidence shows that Vitamin D is important for bone health as well as preventing some cancers. It is also important to make sure you are getting enough Omega 3's (DHA and EPA). These supplements are linked to both heart and brain health. Again, they are deficient in most people's diets.

If you are interested in taking a supplement or vitamin consult your doctor or pharmacist. Many times you do not need to spend the extra money. If you would like to take an herbal product do as much research on the company as possible. Ask your pharmacist about safety and reliability. Herbals can interact with your prescription medications and cause liver and kidney toxicity. For example St. John's Wort can affect the birth control pill, and melatonin can increase blood pressure. Many herbals can also interact with warfarin, and could be dangerous for some people to take.

It can be confusing with media and advertising if you should be taking a supplement or herbal product, please come and talk to a pharmacist if you have questions about these types of products.

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■ **WEATHER:** Salt shortage has hit many Ontario municipalities

Plenty of salt for Niagara roads

RAY SPITERI
QMI Agency Niagara

What shortage? Some municipalities in Ontario are suffering from a lack of de-icing salt this winter, leaving roads frozen for longer than normal in places such as

Windsor, Hamilton and the Greater Toronto area.

A harsh winter has led to a huge demand on road salt producers, which has exceeded the supply capacities of plants. Several communities have cut back on the salt they apply. Some have replaced salt with a sand application until supply and demand balances out.

The problem hasn't hit Niagara, according to officials with Niagara Falls, Welland and St. Catharines.

Marianne Tikky, manager of roadways for Niagara Falls, said the Honey-moon Capital is in good shape.

She said municipalities across the region buy salt in bulk from the same contractor, Canadian Salt.

The city secures its order in the spring, while some communities in Ontario wait until mid summer or early fall, said Tikky.

The city is also benefitting from recent mild seasons, when less salt had to be used, that left more for old-fashioned winters like the one this year.

Tikky said 72% of the budget has been used up for 2014.

But while there's no shortage in Niagara Falls, Tikky said school crossing guards have reported people stealing salt from boxes near schools. She said the boxes are there for crossing guards

to apply salt to sidewalks to allow children safe access to their schools.

"They have given us driver's license plates of people that have pulled up and shoveled salt out of our salt boxes."

Tikky said city officials might lock salt boxes next year to avoid such losses.

Welland public works foreman Vince Beaudoin said the Rose City uses a sand/salt mix during de-icing operations. He said salt is used on the major roads in the city.

"I've heard of other municipalities coming up short, but we've been very fortunate — our supplier has been very good with us," he said.

"We've gone through more salt this year than in the past because of the weather conditions, but we've had no issues."

Robert Riediger, manager of operations for St. Catharines, said the municipality has had "absolutely no problem at all getting road salt" this winter.

He said different municipalities across the province work with different salt suppliers, but "we feel very fortunate we have had no difficulties at all."

Riediger said main roads in the city receive salt, while secondary roads receive sand.

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■ COLLEGE

Niagara College students head to Dominican

From Page 16

He said Los Cacaos wants to expand its greenhouse industry to generate income during off-season, non-coffee harvest times before November and after March.

"They want to get that greenhouse industry going and they need the irrigation," he said. "In the developing world these treadle pumps are used quite a bit."

The pump pieces come from donated items, have been assembled by the students in their spare time, and are being packed for shipping.

Two greenhouse technician students also plan to help the Los Cacaos community improve compost teas, used to

help control disease on crops.

In another workshop, a college dental student will run a workshop on dental hygiene for younger children.

Beamsville greenhouse technician student Andrew Bews is among the students taking part in the trip.

"The field studies program really interested me, as I want to go out and experience a culture and live with them," said Bews, 38, from Beamsville. "This, rather than going to a resort, with the swim-up bar at the pool."

"It's something I always wanted to do, so when the opportunity came up I was definitely interested."

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■ **DONOR CAMPAIGN:** 'He wouldn't have survived' without donations, mom says

Blood donations hit home for Nate

KAREN WALTER
QMI Agency Niagara

Just four years old, Nate Lupton has a bravery bead necklace that is stunning. Stunning not just because of the sheer number of beads, but because of what each represents.

Bright red for each blood transfusion. White with lightning bolts for emergency room visits. Dark red for when his skin needed a poke.

Five hundred and fifty beads in all. "They all have a different meaning," says his mom Amy Lupton, explaining the colours as Nate tried not to bounce in the lobby of the Jack Gatecliff Arena before game time Thursday night.

The Grimsby boy was invited to drop the puck prior to the IceDogs game to bring awareness to the Canadian Blood Services' Bravery Bead campaign.

"He's psyched," she said, adding they are a hockey family made up of big brothers Spencer, 13, and Chase, 12, and dad Mike. During February, all blood donors can sign a bravery bead for a child battling a life-threatening illness. When a child receives a blood transfusion at McMaster Children's Hospital, they'll receive one of the signed beads for their necklaces.

Nate's bravery necklace already has 75 red beads for the transfusions of blood products he's received in his short life. He was diagnosed with Wiskott Aldrich Syndrome, a rare immune deficiency and genetic disorder, after displaying symptoms at 11 weeks old.

Lupton said her son was bruising, had pinpoint blood bleeds under the skin called petechiae and his platelets were dangerously low.

The syndrome affects one in 250,000 male births and hampers the body's ability to produce platelets and fight infection.

"Nate's been through a lot. He's very resilient," his mother said.

She said the best treatment is a bone marrow transplant, which Nate had at eight months old from an anonymous donor on the national registry.

Before that, he was receiving platelets every two to seven days. By the time he was one year old, he'd had 40 blood and platelet transfusions.

"Without them, he wouldn't have survived," Lupton said, adding he might require more in the future.

Lupton, now an advocate for Canadian Blood Services, said she and her husband



BOB TYMCZYSHYN/QMI AGENCY NIAGARA

Four-year-old Nate Lupton dropped the puck prior to Thursday's Niagara IceDogs game. It's the start of the Niagara Canadian Blood Services' Bravery Bead campaign.

Mike didn't know a lot about blood services when Nate was first diagnosed. They had to educate themselves on where the blood was coming from and that there was a public registry.

In the beginning, they were travelling to McMaster five times a week. "We've never had to wait for the blood. It's always been there and available and it's available from strangers," she said.

"Someone took an hour out of their life, and they have no idea the impact they've had."

Tammy Maroudas, community development co-ordinator for Canadian Blood Services, said the agency was hoping to spread the word about the importance of donations at the hockey game.

More than 50% of Canadians require blood donations in their lives, she said.

The importance of donors could not be more obvious to Lupton's family. The proof is hanging around Nate's neck.

It usually takes more than one blood donation to save the life of a patient.

"It's taken 40,000 to save his life," Lupton said. "You don't know who you're going to help. Every recipient has a mother."

karen.walter@sunmedia.ca

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INPORT NEWS

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The deadline for submission is 4 p.m. Friday, March 14, 2014.

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 Dessert _____
 Doughnuts _____
 Fast Food Restaurant _____
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 Italian Restaurant _____
 Lunch _____
 Mexican Restaurant _____
 Outdoor Patio _____
 Seafood _____
 Steak _____
 Pizza _____
 Subs/Sandwiches _____

Best Entertainment

Bar _____
 Live Entertainment _____
 Golf Course _____
 Sports Bar _____

Best Shopping

Appliances _____
 Auto Parts _____
 Bakery _____
 Bedding _____
 Butcher Shop _____
 Carpet/Flooring _____
 Clothing Fashion Store _____

Best Shopping Continued

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 Florist _____
 Furniture Store _____
 Gardening Centre _____
 Gift Shop _____
 Grocery Store _____
 Hardware Store _____
 Health Food Store _____
 Home Electronics Store _____
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 Lumber Yard _____
 Muffler Shop _____
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 Optical Store _____
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 Sporting Goods _____
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 Transmission Shop _____
 Used Cars _____
 Water Company _____

Best Services

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 Auto Repair _____
 Bank/Credit Union _____
 Barber Shop _____
 Beauty Salon _____
 Car Wash _____

Best Services Continued

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 Catering Company _____
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Only original newspaper ballots accepted. No mechanical reproductions allowed. Employees of the InPort News, and their immediate families are not eligible. Winners of the Gift Card will be determined by a random draw from all entries received by 4 p.m. Friday, March 14, 2014. Winners will be contacted by phone. You do not have to fully complete ballot to win.

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IMPORT DATEBOOK

FEBRUARY 27

CLASSIC BOOK CLUB

at Wainfleet Township Public Library, 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. This month's selection is Alice's Adventures in Wonderland, by Lewis Carroll. To obtain a copy of the book, please register as a book club member.

FAMILY MENTAL HEALTH

Education Coping Skills Workshops at Port Colborne Public Library, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. These workshops are intended for families and significant others who have an adult relative who is dealing with a serious mental health problem and/or co-occurring disorder. All workshops are free. Registration is required. Call 905-894-6808.

FEBRUARY 28

FREE TAX CLINIC

at Port Colborne Public Library. Free tax return preparation. Call the library at 905-834-6512 to see if you qualify and to book an appointment.

MARCH 1

CHILI COOKOFF

hosted by Royal Canadian Legion Branch 56, Port Colborne. Entrance is free and everyone is welcome. Bring your best chili recipe. The cookoff runs 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Prizes for first, second and third place. Admission is \$5 a person to come out to taste and judge the best chili around.

MEDITATION

Marcia leads you through different types of meditation, at Pelham Public Library, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Great for beginners and people who have meditated before. Bring a pen and notebook. Cost \$3; register ahead.

TO THE MOON AND BACK

fundraiser dinner and silent auction for Niagara Children's Centre is at Sam's restaurant, in honour of local boy Carter Luey, who was diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder and Fragile X Syndrome. Last year nearly \$4,000 was raised. Tickets for this fundraiser are \$50 a person. Auction donations welcomed. For tickets and



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MASQUERADE BALL

The Hungarian Hall in London, 361 Hellens Ave., is holding a pre-Lenten masquerade ball, dinner and dance. Prize for best costumes. Chicken soup, cabbage rolls, beef stew with orzo, salad, coffee, tea and dessert. Live music. Tickets: Adult \$30; student (7-14) \$15. For tickets call

Anna at 905-735-0959, Eva at 905-734-3593 or Tibor at 905-735-6447.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S

Day performances and art exhibition at Roselawn Centre for the Arts, 236 Fielden Ave., Port Colborne, noon to 6 p.m. Local female artists: woodcarving, watercolour, pottery, photography, beadwork, acrylic. Cost \$25 for adults; \$15 for seniors and students. For tickets call 905-834-7572 or see facebook.com/CelebratingWomenAndTheArts.

MARCH 3

BOAT OPERATOR'S COURSE

offered by Port Colborne Power and Sail Squadron, March 3, 4 and 5, 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Welland. Cost: \$70. Register at www.boatingcourses.ca.

MARCH 4

PANCAKE SUPPER

First Lutheran Church, 688 Elm St., Port Colborne. 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Pancakes, sausage, bacon, tea, coffee and dessert. Adults \$7, children four to 10 \$3. For tickets call 905-834-0590 or 905-835-8111.

PANCAKE SUPPER

at Wesley United Church, 244 First Ave. N., Welland, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Pancakes, sausages, desserts, tea and coffee. Adults \$7, children three to 12 \$4, under three free. All welcome.

Continued on Page 26

PORT COLBORNE HIGH SCHOOL SAYS THANKS... AND WELCOME!

PCHS would like to thank all the parents and students who made our 2014/2015 Open House such a success!

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PURPOSE

With the introduction in June 2013 of new federal "Marihuana for Medical Purposes Regulations (MMPR)" into the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act, the City is now proposing a Zoning By-law Amendment to ensure that new medical marihuana production facilities are appropriately located within the Rural and Agricultural Zones of the City. A future amendment will address these same facilities in the industrial areas of the City.

The proposed Zoning By-law Amendment will include the definition of a "Medical Marihuana Production Facility" and will list it as a permitted use in the Agricultural and Rural Zone. Also, Zone provisions such as: minimum lot area and frontage, yard setbacks, parking requirements, a minimum distance separation of 150 metres from sensitive land uses (residential, parks, schools etc.), fencing and planting strip requirements, and if necessary, a report identifying the source of irrigation water, quantities required, and the effects of same on the groundwater table and nearby wells will be included.

Additionally, as part of this proposed amendment, a "Sensitive Land Use" will be defined and "Agricultural" uses will be removed as a permitted use within the Environmental Protection Zone.

STATUTORY PUBLIC MEETING

Date: March 24, 2014
Time: 6:30 PM
Location: City Hall Council Chambers, 3rd Floor
66 Charlotte Street, Port Colborne

HAVE YOUR SAY

Input on the proposed Zoning By-law Amendment is welcome and encouraged. You can provide input by speaking at the public meeting or by providing written comments to the City. Please note that unless you provide input via one of these means, you may not be able to appeal the decision of Council at a later date.

WRITTEN SUBMISSION

To provide input in writing or to request personal notification of a decision of Council, please send correspondence c/o City Clerk, 66 Charlotte Street, Port Colborne Ontario, L3K 3C8.

MORE INFORMATION

For more information, please contact Lindsay Richardson, Community/Policy Planner at 905-835-2901 ext 129 or via email at lindsayrichardson@portcolborne.ca. A copy of the Public Meeting Report will be available in the Planning and Development Department, 2nd floor, City Hall for review on Thursday March 20, 2014 or it can be found on the City's website at www.portcolborne.ca.

IN-PORT DATEBOOK

From Page 24 PANCAKE SUPPER

at Holy Trinity Anglican Church, 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Pancakes, sausages, dessert, tea and coffee. Adults \$7; under 12 \$4.

PANCAKE SUPPER

at Concordia Lutheran Church, 105 Welland Rd., Fortnith, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Adults \$7, children six to 12 \$3.50, children five and under free. Everyone welcome.

PANCAKE SUPPER

Shrove Tuesday supper at St. Alexander parish, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Adults \$6, child \$4 (12 and under). Pancakes, sausages, baked beans, coffee, tea and juice.

PANCAKE SUPPER

hosted by Knights of Columbus, 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at St. Theresa Church Hall, Port Colborne. Pancakes, sausage, dessert, coffee and tea. Adults \$6, children 10 and under \$3. For tickets call Joe at 905-834-5403, Larry at 905-835-2751 or Ron at 905-835-2676.

GIRLS NIGHT OUT

Port Colborne Optimists hosts Girls Night Out, featuring local psychic, entertainment by Randy Thomas, Joseph's Winery tastings, hors d'oeuvres served by volunteer firemen, numerous vendors, a Zumba demonstration and Sherry Pollard, a Miss Pole Dance Canada. Tickets are \$25 each, or 10 tickets for the price of nine, available by calling 905-834-7988. The event is at Brebeuf Hall at 300 Killaly St. E. Doors open at 7 p.m.



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- have a minimum of Grade 12 education or approved equivalent
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- be able to pass a Fire Fighter's medical exam
- be able to complete the Fire Fighter's CPAT
- be able to pass a swim test
- complete Niagara Regional Police Service Access to Information Waiver for Criminal Reference Check Clearance

Applicants must be at least eighteen (18) years of age and be a resident of Port Colborne.

For applications, please visit our website at www.portcolborne.ca

Please note all applicants must meet the requirements of By-law No. 5054/109/07 in relation to being able to respond to Fire Department Headquarters within ten (10) minutes of the sounding of a general alarm from their residence.

Please apply by March 31, 2014 to:

Office of the Fire Chief
3 Killaly Street West, Port Colborne, Ontario L3K 6H1
e-mail: clenkins@portcolborne.ca fax: 905-835-1020

Personal information is collected under the authority of the Municipal Act and will be used to determine suitability. We thank all applicants and advise that only those selected for an interview will be contacted. The City of Port Colborne is an equal opportunity employer. Accommodations is available upon request.

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"It works! I'll take another two bottles please!"

This coming from a customer who had tried every other natural remedy under the sun in the past few years to take away her pain. Ian, the owner of The Healthy Cupboard couldn't believe his ears. He had finally found the perfect product to stop his customer's miseries. This is what every owner of a health food store dreams about, a natural product that receives so many outstanding testimonials on such a wide variety of health issues. "I had recommended a new product called LeafSource, which we recently started carrying. We have had tremendous success with this product, and almost everyone we have recommended it to over the last few months has come back and thanked us over and over again," said Ian. Before trying LeafSource, the woman had complained about her ongoing joint pain and was at her wit's end. Although she had experienced some relief through the numerous natural remedies she had tried over the years, the pain would never fully go away. "She returned to my store, in tears, less than one week after buying LeafSource. I didn't know what to make of this woman standing in front of me crying, until she told me that within a few days of taking LeafSource her pain started to disappear and within a week it was completely gone - as if it was never there," Ian goes on, "This coming from a woman whose painful joints and ongoing sciatica were so bad just one week earlier, that the pain was unbearable but now has completely subsided." By now you are probably wondering what is LeafSource and

why is it so effective? LeafSource is a 100% natural product derived from a proprietary organic mineral complex with over ten years of university research. LeafSource helps regulate the inflammatory process and the body's ability to repair itself. The vast majority (70 - 80%) of the population over the age of 50 have joint problems — often called osteoarthritis. This is due to the natural (or unnatural) wear and tear on joint tissue that develops through the aging process. With joint inflammation, movement is limited and pain can be constant. LeafSource seems to have the ability to help people get their mobility and zest for life back. Millions of people seek treatment for their joint and inflammation problems by resorting to expensive, toxic prescription drugs (i.e. NSAIDs) with multiple side effects. These range from nausea and vomiting to serious intestinal disorders (bleeding, gas, pain) and even kidney and liver failure. Isn't that too large a price to pay for a little pain relief? LeafSource is a safe alternative to these destructive anti-inflammatory drugs that cause more problems than they solve. There are absolutely no side effects and it doesn't interfere with any other medications. Controlled experiments and observations have revealed that LeafSource is a potent anti-inflammatory that has been shown to bring a reduction to inflammation and pain within a few days. People notice great results in terms of more energy and less pain by taking anywhere from 2 to 6 capsules/day.

Typical maintenance is usually 1 capsule twice daily. This product gets results! LeafSource is scientifically validated through more than 10 years of research at 4 universities, including the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Mercer University. Aside from its incredible anti-inflammatory and pain reducing ability, it has also been shown to improve the performance of your daily nutrition and vitamin programs. It helps increase the absorption of vital nutrients, which in turn helps these nutrients work better. Better absorption = better results! It's almost as if they have become supercharged! LeafSource has also been shown to help enhance energy levels, improve intestinal health, strengthen hair, skin and nails and improve immune function. To see someone go from intense pain to a new lease on life within a week is truly incredible. Imagine being able to move freely without pain. Who wouldn't want to get out of bed in the morning with more energy? It's amazing how much of this stuff we take for granted, until it's gone. Ian adds, "I often recommend that LeafSource be taken with other natural joint products in order to help them work better and provide even faster relief. One of the things I hear most often from people who have tried LeafSource is they just plain feel better, have more energy and less pain. We're so confident, we guarantee LeafSource 100%! That alone should be enough to try this incredible product."

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